

October 3, 2002

Marlene H. Dortch  
Commission Secretary  
445 12th Street SW, CY-B402,  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Proceeding 02-306

Dear Commissioners:

As the Mayor of San José, California, I have been following the issue of competition in the communications industry with interest. I have been especially interested in the competition issue in California and SBC Pacific Bell's long distance application.

Businesses and consumers alike will benefit from additional competition in the long distance market. Greater competition will provide Californians with more choices, better services, increased convenience and greater value. The competitive nature of the telecommunications industry will force the current long distance carriers to lower their rates - exactly what has happened in other states.

Approving SBC's application would bring major benefits to California consumers. More than 141 million Americans in 23 states are experiencing increased telecommunications competition. As the nation's most populous state, the telecommunications market in California should be as competitive as that of any other state in the nation. The Telecommunications and Research Action Center has estimated that Californians will save up to \$800 million in combined local toll and long distance calling in the first year alone after SBC Pacific Bell enters the long distance market.

I would like my 900,000 constituents to share in the benefits of more options and competitive pricing. I urge the Commission to approve SBC Pacific Bell's 271 application in a timely manner so that Californians can begin to enjoy the benefits of a more competitive telecommunications market.

Sincerely,

Ron Gonzales  
Mayor